

RUSSIAN FORCES HALT TEUTONIC OFFENSIVE IN RUMANIA

POPE WILL NOT INDORSE GERMAN PEACE PROPOSAL

Vatican Believes Mediation Is
Not Feasible Now.

ITALIANS NOT OPTIMISTIC

National Aspirations Must Be
Satisfied.

ROME, Dec. 18.—Pope Benedict has no intention of attempting to mediate among the belligerents at present, according to a statement issued today by the vatican. The statements say that neither the pope nor the holy see have made or wish to make any comment regarding Germany's peace proposals and that therefore any announcements attributed to them are absolutely unfounded. It is added that the pope naturally has an ardent desire for peace, but that he does not believe that any intervention at the present moment would hasten its conclusion.

The net result of several resolutions introduced in the chamber of deputies regarding the German peace offer and a prolonged discussion among the senators and deputies was the decision by the legislators that no peace would be accepted unless in accordance with national aspirations and the rights of peoples based on the principle of nationality. If such a peace is impossible to obtain diplomatically, it was declared that it must be obtained by victory of arms.

Socialists Urge Peace Discussion

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The socialist federation of the Paris district has adopted a resolution giving favorable consideration to the possible resumption of international socialist relations. The resolution emphasizes the possibility of these relations having reference to peace on the condition that clear proposals in definite terms be submitted by Germany and her allies.

The entente governments are invited in the resolution not to reject any peace proposals without serious consideration and to submit such proposals to the respective parliaments.

It is pointed out that the more the central powers' peace proposals are unacceptable the more it is the duty of the allies to denounce them to the world.

Lloyd George Will Make Talk Tuesday

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Chancellor of the exchequer, A. Bonar Law definitely announced in the house of commons this afternoon that Premier Lloyd George would be present in the house on Tuesday to make his statement regarding the British government's policy.

AUDITORIUM FOR UNIVERSITY OF STATE FAVORED

Officials Agree to Make That
Recommendation.

At the joint conference this morning of members of the board of education, board of affairs and the governor for the purpose of figuring out the needs of the state educational institutions for the next two years, it was agreed to recommend to the next legislature an appropriation of \$150,000 for the construction of an auditorium at the state university.

Woodrow Wilson Contributes to Times Santa Claus Fund; Two Children Give \$1 Each

WOODROW WILSON is the latest contributor to the Times Santa Claus fund—"for the kiddies, God bless them!"

Although he is generally supposed to spend most of his time in Washington, and few people are aware that he ever visits Oklahoma City—just as natural as life he walked into the Times office early this morning and dropped a dollar bill on the desk of the Santa Claus editor. Together with other contributions, the fund now has risen to \$201.50.

"I'm sorry I can't give more," he said. "But I've been intending to bring this in to you for several days. I hope that it

will make some poor kid happy."

Of course, by this time the reader has guessed that the Woodrow Wilson who visited the Times, isn't the one who recently received a telegram of congratulation from a gentleman named Hughes. But Woodrow Wilson is his really and truly name. He is an official of an oil company of this city.

Other contributions received since Saturday are:

Edward E. Rewick, \$5; anonymous, \$5; "A Well Wisher," \$5; Edwin Constant, 9 years old, and Earl Constant, 5 years old, 1021 West Seventeenth street, \$1 each; John H. Wright, \$10; Mrs. E. H. Linzee, \$2.

CARRANZA WILL NOT CLOSE DOOR ON AGREEMENT

Mexican May Sign Protocol
With U. S. Later.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18.—Indications at the close of the morning session of the Mexican-American commission were that General Carranza was not disposed to close the door against an agreement with the American representatives, who have been trying for more than three months to solve questions at issue between Mexico and the United States. When the commission reconvened today after a three-week recess, Alberto J. Pani, Mexican commissioner reported the results of his visit to Queretaro. The report was made verbally and was received by the Americans without comment. An adjournment until later in the day was taken, when it is expected the details of his written message from Mexico will be discussed.

May Be Ratified.

The exact character of his report was not revealed, but it was learned that while Carranza had not signed the protocol drafted at Atlantic City, this was not necessarily to be taken as an indication that it would not be ratified later, the signature perhaps being that of Ambassador-Designate Arredondo, who is qualified and authorized to sign such a document.

Cognate Proposal Expected.

To the terms of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico.

Bank Insurance Men Talk Rates for Oklahoma

A conference of insurance companies of Baltimore and New York is being held in Baltimore today to consider the situation in Oklahoma with reference to bank robberies, according to information reaching local banking circles today.

The conference is held to determine the future course of insurance companies in writing insurance against night and daylight bank robberies in Oklahoma. The question of restricting insurance to certain localities, and readjustment of rates, it is understood by local bankers, are being considered.

Christmas Marriage License Rush Is On

The annual rush of Christmas marriage "showers" has descended upon the district court clerk's office. Since noon Saturday twelve licenses have been issued. The previous average for the month did not exceed two licenses per day.

Warmer Tonight Is Weather Forecast

Local Forecast—Fair and somewhat warmer tonight and Tuesday.

State Forecast—Tonight, fair; warmer in northeast portion; Tuesday fair and warmer.

KANSAS—Generally fair with rising temperature.

ARKANSAS—Fair and colder.

WEST TEXAS—Fair, slightly warmer in north portion.

**READ THE ADS
FIRST. THE FALL
OF POTATOES
WOULD INTEREST
ME MORE THAN
THE FALL OF VERDUN**

"Zimmie"

10 p. m. 33
11 p. m. 33
12 midnight 32
1 a. m. 30
2 a. m. 29
3 a. m. 28
4 a. m. 28
5 a. m. 27
6 a. m. 24
7 a. m. 22
8 a. m. 20
9 a. m. 24
10 a. m. 27
11 a. m. 31
12 noon 33
1 p. m. 35

Dinner Course Limit Worries British Cooks

Not More Than Three May
Now Be Served.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The first food restriction went into force in England today. Hotels and restaurants are now forbidden to serve more than two courses for breakfast or luncheon and three courses for dinner.

Little inconvenience was experienced in connection with the two first meals. The Englishman's usual breakfast consists of a cereal and bacon and eggs or fish except in the more expensive places a luncheon of two courses is the rule. It was in arranging for a dinner of three courses that the caterers experienced the greatest difficulties but even in this case few are likely to go hungry as hors d'oeuvres and soup cost only half fare and two-course dinners have the choice of fish, entrees, or roasts with vegetable desserts. Cheese with bread and butter or crackers is counted as a course.

The meatless day to follow shortly will prove more difficult problem for restaurants which make a specialty of roasts.

Housewives Meet This Afternoon

Recommendations of the investigating, publicity and extension and other committees of the Oklahoma City Housewives' league will be acted upon at a meeting to be held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Auditorium.

Whether the league will issue a "refrain" order applying to foods other than butter, eggs and cranberries, already under their ban, was not disclosed this morning.

\$3.05 Refund in Turkey Fraud.

DETROIT, Dec. 18.—Theodore Parney bought a turkey for \$3.05. The bird was plump when he bought it, but thin and scrawny when he reached home. He sued the butcher at the suggestion of a meat inspector, who explained in court that the turkey had been bloated with water. The butcher refunded \$3.05.

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CHRISTMAS**

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GROSS RECEIPTS LAW A FAILURE, ASSERTS BOARD

Equalization Body to Ask Repeal by Legislature.

FREELING TO DRAW BILL

Counties Do Not Get Their
Share, Another Objection.

Repeal of the act of the 1915 legislature, levying a 2-percent tax on the gross receipts of express and telegraph companies is asked in a resolution adopted by the state board of equalization this morning.

Attorney General S. P. Freeling, member of the board, was requested to prepare the bill for the repeal of the law and have it introduced in the forthcoming legislature.

Law a Failure.

Members of the board declared the law has been a complete failure. It is almost impossible for the companies, it was stated, to make complete reports under its provisions. Members of the board say that if the state would employ the corps of experts necessary to keep check on the companies and see that the law was complied with it would cost the state almost as much as the tax would yield.

Another objection to the law is the fact that all taxes collected under its provisions go direct to the state, and the counties in which the companies subject to the law operate, get none of the taxes.

Reports Accepted.

The board this morning accepted the reports of the Western Union, Mackay and Postal telegraph companies of their gross receipts for the year of 1915. According to these reports the Western Union will pay the state \$21,455.07; the Postal will pay \$602.31 and the Mackay will pay \$162.78. This is in lieu of all other taxes on these companies.

Teamster Takes Blame for Murder Charged to Girl

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—Charles Noe, a teamster, today told the police that he and not Miss Bertha Smith killed Charles Stone at the home of Miss Smith yesterday. After being arrested last night Miss Smith said that she had struck Stone with a hammer when he attempted to force his attentions on her, but today she withdrew the statement.

Ohio Company Pays \$5,000 Fee Here

The Ohio Cities Oil and Gas company of Columbus, Ohio, this morning qualified to operate in Oklahoma when it filed a copy of its articles of incorporation with Secretary of State Lyon.

The capital stock of the company is \$5,000,000. Accompanying the articles filed with Secretary of State Lyon was a check for \$5,450 being the fee paid by the company to the state for the privilege of operating here.

Diplomats Who Convey Peace Plan of Germany to Entente



LONDON, Dec. 18.—The peace note of the central powers was handed to the British government today by Walter H. Page, the American ambassador, David R. Francis is American Ambassador to Russia, Thomas Nelson Page, ambassador to Italy and William G. Sharp, ambassador to France.

Mr. Page called at the foreign office early in the day. In the absence of A. J. Balfour, the foreign secretary, he presented the note to Robert Cecil, under-secretary for foreign affairs.

"CHICKEN POCKETS" NOVELTY FOR SPRING IN WOMEN'S DRESSES

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Chicken pockets are to be the novelty in spring fashions. The decree was announced at the closing session of the Chicago Designers' annual convention and the name of the new style is given because the pockets will be large enough to carry a live chicken if desired.

"Pockets will be the distinguishing feature of the suits," said L. A. McKinnin, vice president. "They will range through every shape and size. There is one that might be called the birds nest model because it stands out from the skirts."

Soft, clinging materials, Shantung or Rajah silks, satins or stockette serge are the proper thing. Seams are to be eliminated wherever possible in both skirts and coats.

FINANCIERS FROM ALLIED NATIONS TO BE DEPORTED

Baron With \$500,000 Denied
Admittance to U. S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Baron Robert Emmanuel Oppenheim, reputed to be a French and English financier, was ordered deported from the United States after a hearing before the board of inquiry of the bureau of immigration here today. He appealed immediately to the department of labor at Washington.

The baron's exclusion was directed, it was announced at the offices of the commissioner of immigration on the ground that he had committed a crime involving moral turpitude. Details as to the character of the alleged offense were withheld, but it is understood charges against him are pending in France.

Oppenheim's only explanation for his being held is that "it might be a case of mistaken identity."

A report was current that Oppenheim had arrived here with some \$500,000 in cash and securities which he had with him, it was said, when removed to the island.

Earp to Inspect McAlester Site

Adjutant General Ancel Earp and Capt. W. G. Murchison will go to McAlester tonight to inspect the 640-acre tract owned by the state for the purpose of passing on its fitness for the establishment of mobilization grounds planned by the government.

THREE MILLION TRAINED MEN ARE NEEDED BY U. S.

—GENERAL SCOTT

Chief of Staff for Compulsory
System.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Advocates and opponents of a system of universal training for military service to replace the volunteer system as the mainstay of the nation's defense had a hearing today before the senate military committee on Senator Chamberlain's bill for compulsory military training which is supported by the army general staff.

While representatives of organizations opposed to the bill, headed by Walter L. Fisher, former secretary of the interior, gave their reasons for opposing it, Major General Scott, chief of staff of the army detailed to the committee why the general staff considered the volunteer system wholly broken down, in efficiency and usefulness and urged that it be discarded for a universal system of liability to training and service.

General Scott, disclosing much of the army war college material, hitherto regarded as confidential, shows that the army general staff now believes that instead of 500,000 available men, which it considered sufficient as a start to defend the country against invasion the

COLORADO BANK ROBBED OF \$7,500

BRUSH, Col., Dec. 18.—Two men held up the Stockmen's National bank here when the doors opened today and escaped in a motor car with \$7,500.

Senate Rejects Smoot 'Dry' Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Senator Smoot's substitute for the Sheppard prohibition bill which would not only prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the capital, but also prevent its importation for personal use, was rejected by the senate today by a vote of 61 to 38. Senators who voted for absolute prohibition as provided in the substitute were: Ashurst, Brady, Curtis, Gronna, Reed, Smoot, Thomas, and Works.

Frisco Men Pay Tribute for Nixon

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—All trains on the St. Louis & San Francisco railroads and all machines in Frisco shops stopped for five minutes today in tribute to the memory of William C. Nixon, president of the railroad, who died Friday.

NEW ALLIED LINE IS FORMED NORTH OF BUZEU RIVER

Rumanian Army Survivors are
Safe in Bessarabia.

NEW DEFENSES PREPARED

French Capture 11,387 Prisoners
at Verdun.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Teutonic offensive in Rumania has been arrested by the Russian fire, the Russian war office announces.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The Rumanian army is now safe, according to news received in Paris last night, says the Petit Parisien. The paper says that the survivors are now beyond the Sereth river at Jassy and in Bessarabia where they are being regrouped and fitted in view of further operations. The entire Rumanian front is now stated to be held by the Russians alone.

Russians Send Aid.

After the Bucharest-Ploesti line was lost, the story says, the Russians sent divisions and forces of cavalry to support the retreat of the Rumanian army. King Ferdinand fell back as rapidly as possible assured of the possibility of reforming behind the shelter of the Russians and continued the withdrawal without halting until the Sereth was crossed.

Defenses Constructed.

The Russians offered strong resistance to the Germans in the region of Buzeu so as to permit engineers to construct a defense front between Remnik, Sara and the Danube marshes, on which front, it is stated, the Rumanians intend to stop the advance of the invaders.

A Berlin statement, reporting hostile forces falling back on Ibraili, may indicate that the eastern end of the line would be established on the important Danube river point, twenty-five miles south of Galatea.

Strong Counter Attack.

On the Franco-Belgian front, Paris announces a strong counter attack by the Germans on the position won by the French in their offensive last Thursday.

The French took 11,387 prisoners in the Verdun fighting of the past three days the Paris war office announces, together with 115 cannon, 107 machine guns and 44 bomb throwers.

Juror Reprimanded for His Tardiness

"No man has a right to keep twenty-five other men waiting on him. You need not make excuses, for no excuse is acceptable."

B. F. Lee, juror, was thus reprimanded by Judge Frank Mathews, sitting in the district court for Judge Hayson, when he returned to the jury box ten minutes late after recess this morning. Lee tried to interrupt the court to explain, but the judge refused to listen.

"Nothing will be done about your tardiness this time, but don't let it happen again. Next time I'll not be so lenient," the judge concluded.

Oklahoma Crude Oil Is Now \$1.20

BARTLESVILLE, Okla., Dec. 18.—Pipe line companies in the Oklahoma-Kansas oil field today posted an advance of 10 cents a barrel in the price of crude oil. The new price is \$1.20. This is the third advance since December 1.

THREE PERSONS KILLED IN GRADE CROSSING WRECK

Frisco Train Strikes Auto at
Mountain Park.

HOBART, Okla., Dec. 18.—Three persons are dead and one slightly injured today as the result of a collision between an automobile and a north-bound St. Louis & Francisco freight train at Mountain Park, near here, last Sunday.

The dead are:
E. E. KIRK, 65 years old.
MRS. HUGH THRASHER, 55 years old.

MRS. H. F. BRASHEARS, 65 years old.
H. F. Brashears escaped with a broken arm and Arthur Brey, 12 years old, was uninjured.

Kirk was instantly killed when the automobile struck the train. Mrs. Thrasher and Mrs. Brashears were injured so badly that they died a few hours after the accident. The automobile was demolished.